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partisans, but their method of presentation is quiet and dignified.

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SIMON LITMAN.

Land Values Taxation. By C. H. CHOMLEY and R. L. OUTHWAITE. (London: Sidgwick and Jackson. 1909. Pp. 242.
The Budget, the Land, and the People. (London: Methuen. 1909. Pp. 92.)

The importance of the revolution in land taxation through which Great Britain is passing is witnessed by a large amount of propagandist literature. Advocacy of the taxation of land values is in the hands of a large number of leagues, organized in different parts of the kingdom, and unified through the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values (Broad Sanctuary Chambers, 20, Tothill St., London). From these and other similar organizations has come a stream of books, pamphlets, addresses, and leaflets. *Land Values Taxation* by Chomley and Outhwaite gives the arguments for taxation of land values, proposals for putting it into practice, and a picture, decidedly optimistic, of the results that may be expected to follow. The book is of a somewhat socialistic tendency. More moderate in tone is *The Budget, the Land, and the People* issued by the Budget League. This is a description and explanation of the new land taxes, with favorable comment and a wealth of examples showing the fortunes made from increase in land values, the burdens imposed on the people by the withholding of land from use, and the good results to come from taxing land values.

In addition to the titles mentioned above there are innumerable pamphlets and leaflets which present facts and arguments in popular form. The United Committee publishes a monthly journal, "Land Values," now in its seventeenth year.

The tendency of much of this literature is in favor of the single tax as advocated by Henry George, whose works are constantly referred to as the highest authority. Such writers, while expressing the greatest satisfaction over the passage of the land taxes of 1909-10, particularly over the fact that at last a universal valuation of the land is ordered, still regard this budget as only a step toward the ultimate goal. The next step, for which agitation is to be immediately pushed, is the placing of local rates on land values and the freeing of buildings and improvements from all taxation.

As we should expect, there is here much that is superficial, inconclusive, and clearly one-sided. Mistakes in economic reasoning occur, as notably the tendency to ignore the Malthusian principle of population and the law of diminishing returns in agriculture. And yet, the general impression, even to the critical reader, is favorable. These publications are well written, their argument is on the whole sound and convincing, their wealth of practical testimony is most instructive, and their breadth of spirit and earnestness of purpose cannot fail to command respect.

As to the relation between land taxation and "tariff reform," the reader is time and again warned that England is facing the alternative of taxation of land values or the abandonment of her free trade policy.

All the writing is by no means on one side. Supporting the landlords we find the Land Union (St. Stephen's House, Westminster, London), representing those whose "interests, and too often means of livelihood, are in imminent danger from the land taxes imposed by Mr. Lloyd George." For example, *A Guide to Property Owners* (pamphlet of 31 pages) criticizes the land taxes and gives frank advice to land owners as to the best methods of evading the new taxes and making the Government's work of valuation as difficult and ineffective as possible. A legal edition of the *Budget* (162 pages) with introduction and full notes, written in an apparently hostile spirit, by W. H. Aggs, is published by Sweet and Maxwell (3, Chancery Lane, London).

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L'État Financier. Quelques Points de Vue. By LOUIS GAUTIER.
(Paris: Giard et Brière. 1910. Pp. 112. 2.50 fr.)

The author here brings together three essays previously published: "L'écueil des budgets," published in the *Revue générale d'Administration*, October, 1909; "La fonte des excédents budgétaires," in the same review, July, 1909; and "L'état banquier," published in the *Revue de Science et de Législation financières*, in the first number, for 1909. These essays in the above order are given new titles which are suggestive of the point of view: "Les prévisions," "La trésorerie," and "Les comptes." They are well worth preserving in this form.

The first essay offers a critical comparison of the series of budgets of France from 1896 to 1905 inclusive. While admitting